

generally, vertically downwardly out of contact with the table top. The pipette gun is removed from the [said] holster and fluid is metered with the gun. The external air pressure source is automatically inactivated when the pipette gun is parked in the holster and automatically activated when the pipette gun is removed from the holster.

Kindly amend the **Claims** as follows:

1. (Amended) A pipette gun and holster apparatus having a remote source of positive and negative air pressure, said apparatus comprising:

- a) a pipette gun having an external, flexible conduit connecting said gun to said remote air pressure source, said gun including:
 - i) a housing having a hand grip portion and a barrel portion oriented transverse to said hand grip portion;
 - ii) a pipette connector fixed to and oriented transverse to said barrel portion;
 - iii) an internal conduit connected to said external flexible conduit and said pipette connector;
 - iv) a valve intermediate said internal conduit which [constructed and arranged to] selectively regulates the flow of either positive air pressure or negative air pressure through said internal conduit to said pipette connector;
 - v) a positive air flow trigger and a negative air flow trigger connected to said valve;

b) a gun holster which [constructed and arranged to] supports said gun above a work table with said pipette connector oriented [generally, vertically] downwardly, said holster including:

- i) a base;
- ii) means for fastening said base to a vertical wall;
- iii) a mounting bracket fixed to and extending transverse to said base, said bracket including a socket having an open top, an open bottom, and a slit extending lengthwise from the top of the socket to the bottom of the socket,

said slit having a width which is smaller than the diameter of said socket and said pipette connector but larger than the diameter of a standard laboratory pipette connected to said pipette connector,

said socket removably holding said gun with said pipette connector oriented downwardly by passing the pipette through the slit and inserting said pipette connector into said socket through the top [having a bottomless socket constructed and arranged to receive and removably hold said gun by inserting said pipette connector into said socket].

6. (Amended) The apparatus recited in claim 1, said fastening [attaching] means comprising suction cups, velcro tabs, or magnets.

8. (Amended) The apparatus recited in claim 7, said socket being circular and being formed in between the base end of at least one of said forks and the end of the prongs of said at least one fork [the prongs of each of said forks].

9. (Amended) The apparatus recited in claim 8, said socket having a diameter DS larger than the distance DP between the prongs of said at least one fork[s].

11. (Amended) The apparatus recited in claim 9, wherein the diameter DS1 of the socket [DS1] and the distance DP1 between the prongs [DP1] of the first fork is greater than the diameter DS2 of the socket [DS2] and the distance DP2 between the prongs [DP2] of the second fork, respectively.

15. (Amended) The apparatus recited in claim 1, including a first switch proximate said socket, said switch regulating the flow of power to said remote air source when said gun is parked in said holster.

16. (Amended) The apparatus recited in claim 15, said first switch deactivating said remote air source when said gun is parked in said holster, and said first switch energizing said remote air source when said gun is removed from said holster.

18. The apparatus recited in claim 1, including a mounting pad for said remote [external] air pressure source.

22. (Amended) A holster for supporting a pipette gun on a vertical surface above or proximate a table top, said pipette gun having a negative and positive air pressure source, pipette connector and a pipette attached to said connector, said holster comprising:

- a) a base;
- b) means for fastening said base to a vertical wall;
- c) a mounting bracket fixed to and extending transverse to said base, said bracket including a socket having an open top, an open bottom, and a slit extending lengthwise from the top of the socket to the bottom of the socket,

said slit having a width which is smaller than the diameter of said socket and said pipette connector but larger than the diameter of a standard laboratory pipette connected to said pipette connector,

said socket removably holding said gun with said pipette connector oriented downwardly by passing the pipette through the slit and inserting said pipette connector into said socket through the top [having a bottomless socket constructed and arranged to receive and removably hold said gun by inserting said pipette connector into said socket,

wherein said holster supports said gun above a work table with said pipette connector oriented generally, vertically downwardly].

23. (Amended) The holster recited in claim 22, including a first switch proximate said socket, said first switch regulating the flow of power to said air source, said first switch deactivating [constructed and arranged to deactivate] said air source when the pipette gun is parked in said holster and energizing [to energize] said air source when the pipette gun is removed from said holster.

24. (Amended) The holster recited in claim 23, said mounting bracket comprising a pair of forks having a base end and a plurality of prongs, the base end of said forks being fixed to said holster base at vertically-spaced locations, said socket being circular and being formed in between the base end of at least one of said forks and the end of the prongs of said at least one fork [the prongs of each of said forks].

25. (Amended) The apparatus recited in claim 24, said socket having a diameter DS larger than the distance DP between the prongs of said at least one fork[s], said pipette connector having a maximum outer diameter DC less than DS but greater than DP.

26. (Amended) The apparatus recited in claim 24, wherein the diameter DS1 of the socket [DS1] and the distance DP1 between the prongs [DP1] of the first fork is greater than the diameter DS2 of the socket [DS2] and the distance DP2 between the prongs [DP2] of the second fork, respectively.

29. (Amended) A method of metering fluid using a pipette gun, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a pipette gun having a remote air pressure source and holster assembly, said holster having a base, means for fastening said base to a vertical surface, a mounting bracket fixed to and extending transverse to said base, said bracket including a socket having an open top, an open bottom, and a slit extending lengthwise from the top of the socket to the bottom of the socket,

said slit having a width which is smaller than the diameter of said socket and said pipette connector but larger than the diameter of a standard laboratory pipette connected to said pipette connector,

said socket removably holding said gun with said pipette connector oriented downwardly by passing the pipette through the slit and inserting said pipette connector into said socket through the top [having a bottomless socket];

b) removably fastening said holster to a vertical surface next to or proximate a horizontal work table top;

- c) parking the pipette gun in the holster above the work table with said pipette connector and pipette oriented [generally, vertically] downwardly out of contact with the table top;
- d) removing said pipette gun from said holster and metering fluid with said gun.

Kindly add the following new **Claims**:

--35. A pipette gun and holster apparatus having a remote source of positive and negative air pressure, said apparatus comprising:

- a) a pipette gun having an external, flexible conduit connecting said gun to said remote air pressure source, said gun including:
 - i) a housing having a hand grip portion and a barrel portion oriented transverse to said hand grip portion;
 - ii) a pipette connector fixed to and oriented transverse to said barrel portion;
 - iii) an internal conduit connected to said external flexible conduit and said pipette connector;
 - iv) a valve intermediate said internal conduit constructed and arranged to selectively regulate the flow of either positive air pressure or negative air pressure through said internal conduit to said pipette connector;
 - v) a positive air flow trigger and a negative air flow trigger connected to said valve;

b) a gun holster constructed and arranged to supports said gun above a work table with said pipette connector oriented generally, vertically downwardly, said holster including:

- i) a base;
- ii) means for fastening said base to a vertical wall;
- iii) a mounting bracket fixed to and extending transverse to said base, said bracket having a bottomless socket constructed and arranged to receive and removably hold said gun by inserting said pipette connector into said socket, including a first switch proximate said socket, said switch regulating the flow of power to said remote air source when said gun is parked in said holster.--

--36. The apparatus recited in claim 35, said first switch deactivating said remote air source when said gun is parked in said holster, and said first switch energizing said remote air source when said gun is removed from said holster.--

--37. The apparatus recited in claim 35, including a second switch which deactivates said remote air source independent of said first switch.--

--38. A holster for supporting a pipette gun on a vertical surface above or proximate a table top, said pipette gun having a negative and

positive air pressure source, pipette connector and a pipette attached to said connector, said holster comprising:

- a) a base;
- b) means for fastening said base to a vertical wall;
- c) a mounting bracket fixed to and extending transverse to said base, said bracket having a bottomless socket constructed and arranged to receive and removably hold said gun by inserting said pipette connector into said socket, wherein said holster supports said gun above a work table with said pipette connector oriented generally, vertically downwardly, including a first switch proximate said socket, said first switch regulating the flow of power to said air source, said first switch deactivating said air source when the pipette gun is parked in said holster and energizing said air source when the pipette gun is removed from said holster.--

--39. The holster recited in claim 38, said mounting bracket comprising a pair of forks having a base end and a plurality of prongs, the base end of said forks being fixed to said holster base at vertically-spaced locations, said socket being circular and being formed in between the prongs of each of said forks.--

--40. The apparatus recited in claim 39, said socket having a diameter DS larger than the distance DP between the prongs of said forks, said pipette connector having a maximum outer diameter DC less than DS but greater than DP.--

--41. The apparatus recited in claim 39, wherein the diameter DS1 of the socket and the distance DP1 between the prongs of the first fork is greater than the diameter DS2 of the socket and the distance DP2 between the prongs of the second fork, respectively.

--42. The apparatus recited in claim 41, said pipette connector having a frusto-conical shape, a maximum outer diameter DC1 greater than DP1, DP2 and DS2 but less than DS1, and a minimum outer diameter DC2 greater than DP2 but less than DS1, DP1 and DS2.--

--43. A method of metering fluid using a pipette gun, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a pipette gun having a remote air pressure source and holster assembly, said holster having a base, means for fastening said base to a vertical, a mounting bracket fixed to and extending transverse to said base, said bracket having a bottomless socket;

b) removably fastening said holster to a vertical surface next to or proximate a horizontal work table top;

- c) parking the pipette gun in the holster above the work table with said pipette connector and pipette oriented [generally, vertically] downwardly out of contact with the table top;
- d) removing said pipette gun from said holster and metering fluid with said gun; and
- e) automatically inactivating said external air pressure source when said pipette gun is parked in said holster and automatically activating said external air pressure source when said pipette gun is removed from said holster.